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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 13 PESHAWAR 000449

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: FATA AND NWFP: BI-WEEKLY INCIDENTS OF TALIBANIZATION: AUGUST
16-31

REF: PESHAWAR 435

CLASSIFIED BY: Lynne M. Tracy, Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate
Peshawar, Department of State.

REASON: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

Introduction:

1. (C) Aggressive military operations in Bajaur and Swat continued into the start of Ramadan. Pakistani military sources estimate that 560 Pakistani and foreign fighters were killed in the Bajaur operation, which started on August 7. Local taliban denied that the Bajaur-based Tehrik-i Taliban deputy leader Faqir Muhammad, was among them, and according to local press, he surfaced for a public rally in early September. Violence was high throughout the province and FATA as the militants reacted to the mounting pressure of military operations. In Swat, militants began targeting local political leaders and their families, particularly those from the Awami National Party (ANP), killing nine and destroying their property. A suicide bombing at a hospital in Dera Ismail Khan claimed 32 lives, and local taliban said that such attacks would continue if the Bajaur and Swat operations were not terminated. A U.S. Consulate vehicle was attacked in what appeared to be an attempted kidnapping.

2. (C) Internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained a significant problem, as somewhere between 200,000 and 300,000 people left Bajaur. Some IDPs returned to the agency by the end of the reporting period. Conditions in the camps were not good (reports of inadequate sanitation, disease, and overcrowding), and many IDPs chose to stay with families. Locals also began fleeing violence in Swat, Kurram and Darra Adam Khel.

3. (C) Inter-tribal violence escalated in Kurram, claiming 400 lives in the last two weeks of August amid reports that the Shi'a and Sunni tribes were supported by outside elements. The Kurram Militia of the Frontier Corps was given orders to launch a limited operation in the agency and began shelling both tribes without effect. In Khyber Agency, Mangal Bagh arrived in Landi Kotal with a large militant contingent, only to be repelled within days.

¶4. (C) In settled areas and FATA, grassroots movements to repel the militants have sprouted up during the last two weeks of August. Local tribesmen established armed lashkars (volunteer militias) in Bajaur and Kurram, adding to those recently created in Lower Dir, Buner, and Lakki Marwat. The Bajaur lashkars have reportedly made headway against local taliban in some areas. Peace committees in Mardan, Upper Dir, Badhabar, Nowshera and Mattani are doing joint night patrols with police or have declared they will take up arms should the need arise. While the lashkars and peace committees appear to have had some apparent initial successes in driving out militants, the ability of these local ad hoc security forces to hold ground is unclear.

Swat: Operation Rah-e-Haq-II Remains in Full Swing

¶5. (C) Clashes between militants and security forces in Swat continued, with additional heavy fighting in Bajaur. Local taliban launched a campaign of killing local pro-government tribesmen and political leaders, particularly from the Awami National Party (ANP), charging that the military operations were being carried out at the behest of the ANP-led provincial government. They also continued to attack police posts and burn girls' schools, bringing the total number of girls' schools destroyed over the past ten months to nearly 130, nine of which during the last half of August. The security forces appeared to become more strategic in their targeting, hitting ammunition dumps, training camps and a communications center. According to press reports, locals have begun fleeing the area due to continuing civilian casualties and property destruction. The following is a timeline of significant events according to local press and post contacts through August 31:

August 16: Militants set fire to four girls' schools in Matta. Separate fighting damaged a link bridge in Basharray and a

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chairlift in Kholija.

August 17: Local taliban claimed they killed two security officials. Separately they burned down a health center and a barber shop in Charbagh, as well as a girls' school in Matta. Security forces killed five, including two women, and damaged several houses.

August 18: The local taliban killed a policeman at the Wenai checkpoint in Matta, which was followed by heavy fighting between security forces and militants. The local taliban killed a man in front of his son due to his opposition to their activities.

August 20: Taliban claimed to kill three security officials in Matta. Militants burnt two girls' schools in Matta.

August 21: Taliban killed a pro-government tribal elder in Kabal, west of Mingora. Militants killed Mohammad Amin in Kabal, a local ANP leader and former nazim, along with four of his associates, though the local taliban denied responsibility. The local taliban claimed to kill three security personnel at the Donial checkpoint and blew up a portion of a bridge in Charbagh.

August 22: Local taliban militants beheaded a man for spying in Kabal and set fire to a girl's school in Mingora. Local taliban kidnapped a policeman at gunpoint and attacked a security check post in Kabal, injuring a security official.

August 23: During one of the fiercest battles in the Swat operation, air attacks killed 40 militants in Kabal as they tried to ambush troops. Included among the dead were allegedly a militant commander and Chechens, Uzbeks and Tajiks. Security forces claimed they destroyed over 40 militant bunkers and a training camp.

August 23: A suicide attack on a police station in Charbagh killed eleven, including three policemen, and destroyed nearby

shops. Four link bridges were destroyed in Kabal.

August 24: In Kabal, assailants ambushed and killed a local ANP leader. Security forces hit militant hideouts in Kabal, while militants killed four men ostensibly for spying and circulated a pamphlet listing a dozen people on their hit list.

August 25: Approximately 150 local taliban stormed the residence of a member of the National Assembly from the ANP and killed three members of his family, a neighbor who belonged to the Frontier Constabulary and seven guards, claiming to seek vengeance for innocent civilians killed in Kabal.

August 25: Militants attacked a checkpoint in Matta, killing a member of the paramilitary forces, while a blast at a police post in Shahdara wounded two police officials and eight others. Militants killed two pro-government tribesmen near Shakardara.

August 25: Two shops were destroyed, one of them owned by the brother of Muslim Khan, the spokesman for the Swat chapter of the local taliban.

August 25: The security forces destroyed a bunker and a munitions dump, injuring several combatants.

August 26: Militants killed a local ANP leader in Kabal, and the local taliban took responsibility for burning down six houses owned by the leader of the ANP in Matta and his three brothers. They also apparently killed a confidante of local taliban leader Maulana Fazlullah by accident.

August 26: Militants destroyed a government girls' high school in Manglawar and set off a bomb at the Shah Dara police post, destroying the post and killing a boy.

August 27: Militants blew up a market in the bus station of Matta owned by an ANP leader Afzal Khan Lala. Gunmen opened

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fire on a car carrying the grandson of a PML-Q leader, Haroon Rasheed, killing a passenger and injuring the grandson.

August 27: Helicopter attacks hit militant hideouts in Shahibagh and Koza Bandai, killing several militants, injuring nine civilians and damaging a school. The local taliban denied that their people were killed.

August 28: The body of the brother-in-law of the district president of PPP-Sherpao was found in Kabal after being kidnapped several days before. Militants killed four people they suspected of spying on them in Aligrama and Charbagh. The local taliban asked the people to leave the troubled areas of Swat as reports came out that locals were fleeing the fighting.

August 28: Militants killed the former district president of the Pukhtoonkhwa Milla Awami Party, who had been recently abducted.

August 30: Militants dynamited a factory and bombed eight houses in Manglor, including those of a union council nazim and his two brothers.

Separately the local taliban killed a police constable while claiming to hold 38 security officials hostage.

August 31: The Swat taliban rejected the government's offer of a ceasefire for Ramadan.

Bajaur: Displaced Families Begin to Return after Heavy Operation

16. (C) Despite the ceasefire declaration for Ramadan, the government sustained its initiative in the Bajaur campaign through the end of August, as it continued heavy bombardment of the agency. The military estimated that 560 Pakistani and foreign militants were killed since August 7. They said that 20 members of the security forces were killed and thirty missing. Tribes in the Salarzai and Khar areas both raised armed lashkars

to fight the militants, with estimates of the number of volunteers ranging from less than a thousand to more than ten thousand. The humanitarian conditions for the 200,000-300,000 IDPs were dire but by the end of August, some had left the camps or their hosts to return home. Military officials estimate that approximately 250 militants have been killed since fighting began on August 7, though the Ministry of the Interior places the number at over 500. Although the NWFP Governor said privately he was 99% sure that an air attack had killed Bajaur taliban leader Faqir Muhammad, local taliban spokesman Maulvi Omar denied the claim. The following is a timeline of significant events according to local press and post contacts through August 31:

August 16: Local taliban spokesman Maulvi Omar claimed that Faqir Muhammad, the leader of the Bajaur taliban, is still alive.

August 17: Local taliban in Mamond erected a checkpoint to forcefully stop those fleeing from leaving the area in order to use them as human shields.

August 19: Dozens of local taliban attacked a Frontier Corps post in Nawagai, 25 kilometers west of Khar. Twenty-five militants, five security forces and eight civilians were killed in the ensuing clash. Qari Ziaur Rahman, who claims to be an Afghan Taliban commander, said his fighters took seven Frontier Corps men hostage in the fighting. Militants handed over the bodies of twelve soldiers killed in the local taliban ambush on Loya Sam on August 7.

August 23: Official sources said that the local taliban killed three security officials on charges of spying for the US coalition forces and local security forces. Security forces shelled militant hideouts and hit a home, killing nine civilians.

August 24: The local taliban beheaded a man whom they claimed was spying for US troops in Afghanistan, while separately they announced a unilateral ceasefire at the behest of a tribal

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jirga. The government immediately rejected the ceasefire and called for the local taliban to surrender instead.

August 25: Militants blew up an abandoned levy post at Lagharay in Mamond, and separately shot dead two prominent elders and a well-respected cleric.

August 28: Militants destroyed a government girls' school in Sidiqabad near Khar.

August 30: The taliban abandoned their main camp and a captured school in Salarzai.

Kurram: Escalation of Violence

17. (C) Daily violence escalated between the Shi'a Turi tribe and the Sunni Bangash tribe in both Upper and Lower Kurram amid reports that outside forces were fomenting the unrest. The death toll since the most recent wave of violence broke out on August 3 neared 600, nearly as many as had been killed in the agency since April 2007. Nearly four hundred were killed in the last two weeks of August alone. According to local press, some Afghan National Army soldiers are supporting the Turi, but the Kurram Political Agent downplayed these reports. Post contacts state that local taliban from North Waziristan are allegedly supporting the Bangash, in part to maintain control of one of their supply routes into Afghanistan. Press reports indicate that both sides have missiles, mortars, machine guns and rockets and that violence has included heavy property damage. A jirga sent from Hangu and Orakzai failed to broker a peace, while locals continued to flee the area for Kohat and Peshawar due to the unrest and shortages of food and medicine. The following is a timeline of significant events according to local press and post contacts through August 31:

August 17: Two local taliban commanders, Hazrat Ali and Maulana Akbar Din, were killed in Lower Kurram when local taliban militants attacked Turi positions. A Bangash group claimed to capture seven Afghan National Army personnel, but the political administration denied the claim.

August 18: The 72-hour deadline that Interior Minister Rehman Malik issued for a halt to fighting expired but the fighting continued. Among the fifty killed was a militant leader, Kashmir Khan, and three women. Militants set fire to six villages. The leader of the Turi tribe, Haji Gulab Hussain, called for a ceasefire.

August 21: A local tribe claimed to have captured two uniformed Afghan soldiers who allegedly said they were being paid to help the Turi tribesmen and that their government had sent thousands of troops over the border. The soldiers further claimed that the Afghan president met with Turi leaders a few months ago.

August 22: The jirga left after failed talks with elders from the Bangash tribe.

August 23: The Bangash tribe claimed to have executed an Afghan National Army soldier in Kurram. The political administration denied reports that Afghan soldiers had been arrested.

August 24: The Kurram Militia of the Frontier Corps reportedly halted its limited operation after militants threatened to attack the Arawali Fort. Press reports claim that 50,000 people have fled Parachinar and surrounding areas.

August 26: The Shi'a Turi tribe announced a unilateral ceasefire but did not vacate their positions.

August 31: In the heaviest day of fighting in this reporting period, the death toll reached 95 with 200 injured after the Bangash launched three suicide attacks against the Turi.

NWFP

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18. (C) The following incidents have occurred in the Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) and settled areas of the NWFP:

August 16, Peshawar: Unidentified gunmen killed prominent Shi'a leader, Mumtaz Ali Qizalbash, the Provincial General Secretary of Tahrik Nifaz-i-Fiqua Jafria in Hayatabad. He had been receiving death threats due to his political and religious activities.

August 18, Peshawar: Unidentified militants placed explosives in three music shops, damaging the buildings.

August 18, Shabqadar: Unidentified people destroyed an internet cafe and public call office in Gulbahar but no casualties were reported.

August 18, Shabqadar: A missile struck a police post, killing one policeman and injuring two more.

August 18, Dera Ismail Khan: Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP) took responsibility for a suicide bombing outside a hospital emergency room in Dera Ismail Khan that killed 32 and left 25 in critical condition. Three policemen, including the deputy superintendent of police, were among the wounded while conducting crowd control at the hospital following the killing of a Shi'a leader earlier that day. The local taliban warned of more such bombings if the military operations in Bajaur and Swat were not halted.

August 19, Kohat: A police constable was injured and a militant killed in an encounter between suspected militants and a police patrol on Hangu Road.

August 20, Peshawar: The bullet-riddled bodies of two women were found in a Peshawar suburb after being kidnapped a few days earlier in Charsadda district. A note from Jaish-i-Islami accused them of being prostitutes and warned others engaged in immoral activities of a similar fate.

August 21, Kohat: An army major in civilian clothes was gunned down near the officers' colony in Kohat while taking his children to school.

August 22, Peshawar: Militants fired on a Korean camp erected to support the construction of the Lowari Tunnel but no injuries were reported.

August 22, Peshawar: Militants fired five rockets on the Badhabar police station, killing a policeman, injuring two Frontier Constabulary personnel and damaging the station.

August 22, Shangla: A remote controlled bomb went off next to a security force vehicle in Bisham, killing a security official and injuring fourteen.

August 22, Bannu: The local taliban said it would harshly punish flour smugglers who transported flour into Afghanistan. Prices of wheat flour immediately dropped over 10 percent.

August 22, Mansehra: Heavily armed militants attacked a vehicle of security forces at Basham Maira with a hand grenade, killing two security personnel and injuring two more.

August 22, Lower Dir: The local taliban freed the son of a policeman who had been kidnapped on August 11. They had been demanding that the Swat police release a Talib and that the father resign his post, though the family was able to secure the release without capitulating to those demands.

August 22, Hangu: At least 16 militants, including two Chechens, were killed when security forces opened fire on an explosives-laden vehicle near the Sur Pul security checkpoint.

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According to reports, there were two suicide bombers in the vehicle.

August 25, Badhabar: Unidentified militants blew up a girls' high school and distributed pamphlets asking people not to support the government or the Americans for the glory of Islam, otherwise they would be punished.

August 25, Badhabar: Militants attacked the Ghazi Baba police post and the Badhabar police station after coming under fire.

August 25, Mardan: Militants blew up a barber shop and three other shops, partially damaging a private girls' school and a pharmacy.

August 25, Lower Dir: Unidentified gunmen killed Malik Mehmood Jan, a leader of TNSM, and his son near Maidan.

August 25, Peshawar: Two government officials from the Social Welfare Department in Hangu and Jamrud were kidnapped from their vehicle in Hayatabad.

August 26, Peshawar: Gunmen attacked a U.S. Consulate vehicle. None of the three consulate employees in the vehicle were injured.

August 26, Nowshera: Militants fired rockets on the Maraji police post and exchanged fire with the police for several hours, but there were no casualties.

August 27, Shangla: The local taliban in the district have created losses of over \$1 million in their attacks on government and private properties recently.

August 28, Bannu: Seven police officers and three civilians were killed when a remote-controlled bomb exploded as a police van passed by carrying prisoners to court. A bridge was also damaged.

August 29, Kohat: Militants blew up three bridges on the Indus Highway, two in Akhorwal and a third in Zarghun Khel.

August 29, Kalat: A bomb explosion near a bakery in Surab critically wounded five and destroyed several shops.

August 30, Peshawar: Approximately 25 militants attacked the Shinwari Qilla security post south of Peshawar.

August 30, Lower Dir: Two Chinese engineers were abducted by the local taliban allegedly near Khall. This was reportedly the first kidnapping in this area of foreigners.

August 30, Haripur: Assailants shot dead a local spiritual leader, Pir Syed Mushtaq Shah of Maira Toot.

August 31, Mardan: The Kalpani bridge was badly damaged in two bomb blasts. Four other bombs on Jalala bridge in Takht-i-Bhai, north of Mardan, were defused before exploding.

FATA:

19. The following is a roundup of incidents of talibanization in FATA's tribal agencies and frontier regions:

August 16, South Waziristan: Local taliban commander Baitullah Mehsud issued a decree that a parallel judicial and dispute arbitration system would be set up in South Waziristan.

August 16, FR Kohat: Local taliban militants assassinated four tribesmen and left their bodies in Darra Adam Khel's main bazaar, accusing the tribesmen of criminal activity.

August 17, North Waziristan: Militants beheaded a local in Saidgi village near Miranshah, and left a note on his body accusing him of spying for NATO forces.

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August 18, FR Peshawar: Militants fired on the Mattani Police Station with automatic weapons, retreating after the security forces retaliated.

August 19, South Waziristan: A bomb blast in Zyara Leeta killed two.

August 22, South Waziristan: Supporters of local militant commander Maulvi Nazir attacked a checkpoint near Wana, injuring a soldier.

August 23, North Waziristan: Local taliban killed two tribesmen in Dosali near Miranshah for allegedly spying for the United States.

August 23, South Waziristan: Baitullah Mehsud reportedly nominated three of his commanders as deputies to coordinate with TTP partners around FATA and NWFP, amid reports that he had serious chronic medical conditions. The TTP later claimed that he was making a speedy recovery, without providing more information.

August 24, South Waziristan: Militants attacked a security checkpoint in Zam Chan near Wana injuring three South Waziristan Scouts and abducting five.

August 24, North Waziristan: Local tribesmen fired at what they claimed were US drones and cobra helicopters, as the choppers fired at Deugar Saidgi and Danday Saidgi villages near Miranshah.

August 24, North Waziristan: An Afghan man was allegedly killed for spying on behalf of the U.S.

August 25, South Waziristan: Militants loyal to militant leader Maulvi Nazir of the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe attacked a military camp in Tiarza near Wana, angered by the alleged violation of Pakistan's airspace by US spy planes. Eight militants were seriously injured in the fight. Maulvi Nazir subsequently announced a unilateral ceasefire and pledged to support the Political Agent in maintaining law and order and in return demanded a meeting with the governor on the US incursions.

August 25, Khyber: Local militants in Bara set free a Punjabi in exchange for the release of two of their militants, held by rival group Lashkar-i-Islam.

August 26: North Waziristan: Local taliban in Miranshah banned entry of non-local journalists into the agency without prior permission, accusing journalists of being spies.

August 26, South Waziristan: Militants kidnapped a government official from the Works and Services Department in Sarwakai as he was en route to inspect development projects.

August 26, Mohmand: The body of Frontier Constabulary member was dumped near a road in Safi near Ghallanai.

August 27, FR Lakki: Five members of the Bhattani tribe reportedly kidnapped three individuals from Mastikhel near Lakki Marwat. In response the political administration cracked down on the clan in order to secure the release of the kidnapped. (Note: on August 28, the political administration secured the release of those kidnapped. End Note.)

August 27, South Waziristan: Between 75 and 100 Mehsud militants attacked the Tiarza Fort. Troops repulsed the attack, killing 11 militants and wounding 15-20 in the gunbattle. This exchange took place on the border between the tribal areas controlled by Mehsud and Wazir tribes.

August 28, Khyber: Unidentified gunmen abducted two drivers along with their containers bound for Afghanistan from the bazaar in Jamrud.

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August 28-30, Khyber: 500 armed members of Lashkar-i-Islam (LI), headed by Mangal Bagh, returned to Landi Kotal in their first show of strength since Operation Sirat-i-Mustaqeem in Bara in late June. LI reportedly took over control of two mosques belonging to rival faction. Mangal Bagh announced implementation of his code of conduct in Landi Kotal: no anti-social or anti-Islamic activities and started settling disputes. When the Shinwari and Zakhakhel tribes failed to reach consensus on expelling Mangal Bagh, the FC and Levies started patrolling the area. On his FM radio station, Mangal Bagh broadcast a demand that the people of Landi Kotal follow his manifesto or be punished and fined.

August 29, FR Kohat: The Peshawar road link with the southern districts was cut off when a car driven by a suspected suicide bomber was shot and blew up at the Kohat Tunnel near Darra Adam Khel. Two drivers were killed, and 36 security personnel, including a colonel, injured. Thousands of families fled the area.

August 30, Khyber: Militants blew up a container truck carrying goods for ISAF troops in Afghanistan on the Peshawar-Torkham road at Jamrud.

Government / Military Responses:

10. (C) This is a summary of government and military responses to talibanization according to press reporting and consulate contacts:

August 16, Swat: Artillery and air attacks killed nine local

taliban in Swat, and security forces arrested nine more. Press reports indicated there were 25 civilian casualties.

August 16, Bajaur: Twelve militants were killed and five injured in helicopter attacks, one of which hit a mosque in Dabar. Political authorities asked displaced people to return to their homes in Khar.

August 16, South Waziristan: The press reported that five explosions in Angor Adda near Wana but reported no casualties.

August 16, Peshawar: The NWFP government began publishing ads in the local Urdu newspapers to urge people to join with the government in fighting militancy.

August 16, Peshawar: Health officials announced they would not launch the national anti-polio campaign in Bajaur and Kurram due to the security situation.

August 17, Lower Dir and Malakand: The government set up 17 relief camps, though Jamaat e-Islami (JI)'s foundation, Al-Khidamat, received much of the early credit for being responsive to the crisis.

August 18, Bajaur: Security forces destroyed the empty house of Bajaur TTP leader Faqir Muhammad in Chopatra. To avoid being attacked by the cobra helicopters, residents were advised to exit their homes or vehicles and place their hands in the air, though local taliban regularly hid in the maize fields.

August 18, South Waziristan: Security forces arrested four suspected militants allegedly carrying sophisticated arms. They were driving on the Wana-Tank and Tank-Dera roads.

August 18, Buner: Police raided hideouts of suspected militants in Daggar Tangay, arresting two people and recovering arms and ammunition.

August 19, Lower Dir: The provincial government established 17 relief camps for IDPs from Bajaur and allocated over \$175,000 for relief. The government said these camps were taking care of 60,000 of the over 264,000 displaced people.

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August 19, Peshawar: The FATA Secretariat announced 140 scholarships for the children of tribal leaders and government employees killed in operations against militants in the region.

August 20, Bajaur: Security forces bombed militant hideouts and residences of relatives of militant commanders in Salarzai and Mamond.

August 20, Kurram: The government announced that the Kurram Militia of the Frontier Corps had been given a green light to intervene between the warring tribes because they ignored a deadline for the ceasefire. An FC army major was reportedly injured in an attack on a checkpoint.

August 20, South Waziristan: Two missiles allegedly fired from Afghanistan hit a house near Wana owned by a local tribesman with links to militants, killing eight including some non-locals suspected to be Arab nationals and Punjabis.

August 21: The Bajaur Scouts of the Frontier Corps shelled militant strongholds in Mamond and Salarzai.

August 21: The Mardan district government convened a donor's conference with both international and local NGOs to raise funds for displaced families.

August 21, Kohat: Following the killing of an army officer and reports that foreign militants from Kurram and Orakzai were entering Kohat, the district administration imposed a local state of emergency. The police deployed a Quick Response Force, consisting of two platoons of anti-terrorist squads, eight

platoons of the Frontier reserve police, eight platoons of Frontier constabulary. (Note: A platoon contains approximately 40 men. End Note.) Kohat is the headquarters of the army's 9th division, which has been engaged in operations in Waziristans, Kurram and Hangu.

August 22, South Waziristan: Retaliating against a checkpoint raid near Wana, security forces called in air support and injured seven militants.

August 22, Hangu: Local police arrested two Afghan Taliban after a clash between police and taliban in Tal.

August 23, Hangu: Police arrested five suspected militants and seized rocket launchers, among other weapons, after they refused to stop at a police checkpoint and opened fire on the police.

August 24, South Waziristan: In retaliation for an attack on a checkpoint in Zam Chan near Wana, security forces killed three militants and injured more in an attack in Sholam.

August 24, Khyber: Political authorities arrested 13 suspected militants and confiscated their large supply of explosives at the Arakbandi checkpoint in Kam Shelman near Landi Kotal.

August 24, Kohat: Frontier Constabulary shot and critically injured a lawyer on suspicion of being a militant when his vehicle tried to overtake the FC convoy.

August 24, Mansehra: Mansehra and Battagram police took into custody 36 people suspected of involvement in the attack on an army convoy in Dandai, on the border between Battagram and Shangla districts.

August 25, Nowshera: NWFP and Punjab police recovered a cache of explosives, two suicide jackets and rockets that they linked to the suicide bombing at the Wah Cantonment.

August 25, Islamabad: The federal government banned Tehrik-i-taliban Pakistan (TTP) under the Anti-Terrorism Act, following the suicide attack at the Wah Cantonment. The government asked the State Bank to freeze any TTP bank accounts.

August 25, Mohmand: Border security forces arrested two Afghan

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nationals who crossed into Mohmand from Kunar Province in Afghanistan.

August 26, Khyber: A local political administrator detained seven levy constables near Landi Kotal, charging them with neglecting their duty. The levy constables claimed they were beaten up and detained for disloyalty for trying to bypass the chain of command with their complaints, which they passed to the Political Agent.

August 27, Rawalpindi: The Anti-Terrorism Court in Rawalpindi accepted a police petition to declare Baitullah Mehsud, Chief Commander of the Tehrik-i-taliban Pakistan (TTP), a "proclaimed offender" for allegedly planning attacks on former president Musharraf.

August 27, Khyber: Intelligence agencies arrested six people near Jamrud, using information from the interrogation of a suicide bomber from Khyber who had intended to take part in the bombing on the Wah Cantonment on August 21. He did not carry out the bombing and was subsequently arrested.

August 27, Swat: Security forces continued to attack suspected militant hideouts and arrested four local taliban after militants kidnapped two locals.

August 27, Bajaur: In the most serious aerial bombing on local taliban positions since the start of the Bajaur campaign, security forces killed 36 suspected militants in Loisam and Salarzai. Four foreigners were among the dead and three were

from South Waziristan. Displaced families who were trickling back into the agency fled again.

August 28, Swat: The army claimed it killed 23 militants and others reported eight civilian casualties in three separate clashes.

August 28, South Waziristan: A jirga made up of Ahmadzai Wazir tribal members mediated between the political administration and the local taliban. The political administration as a result lifted the curfew, opened the Wana-Jandola road and released 39 suspected militants affiliated with the Maulvi Nazir group of Ahmadzai Wazirs.

August 28, Khyber: Khassadars arrested an Afghan national near the border at Torkham and recovered 2,000 AK-47 rounds.

August 28, FR Kohat: Security forces arrested four suspected militants in Darra Adam Khel, two of whom were identified as local commanders, Mufti Ajmal and Shah Zaman. The latter was a close aide of Tariq who is wanted for killing 15 security personnel in February.

August 29, Swat: Military air strikes over two days in Peochar killed more than 40 militants and two senior commanders, while destroying an ammunition dump and reportedly hitting their communications network. Mufti Saeedur Rehman was allegedly one of the commanders killed, though there was no independent confirmation.

August 29, Khyber: The political administration convened a grand jirga to ask the elders of the Zakhakhel and Shinwari tribes to expel Lashkar-i-Islam chief Mangal Bagh from their area, after he took control of two local mosques but the Zakhakhel tribe refused.

August 29, Buner: Police arrested five suspects in the attack on the Sawari police posts near Daggar.

August 30, South Waziristan: A missile strike, allegedly from Afghanistan, hit a house near Wana, killing five militants, including two Canadians of Arab origin and two Punjabi taliban, in an area controlled by Maulvi Nazeer.

August 30, FR Kohat: In clashes with militants, rockets from

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security forces killed two and injured four when they hit a house near Darra Adam Khel. Helicopter gunships targeted the headquarters and training camp of militants in Tora China.

August 30, FR Peshawar: More than 18 young militants from Mattani and Adezai surrendered to the Peshawar police and pledged to cooperate with the government after three days of negotiations with police and tribal elders. The police had issued notices to their parents offering the young militants complete amnesty if they promised to refrain from militancy.

August 30, Peshawar: After coming under attack at the Shinwari Qilla security post south of Peshawar, the police and armed tribals joined to pursue the militants who retreated to Darra Adam Khel.

August 31, North Waziristan: A missile allegedly hit a house in Tappi just east of Miranshah, killing six and injuring eight. The dead were reportedly foreign militants, including Arabs and Uzbeks.

August 31, Kohat: Security forces targeted militant mountain hideouts in different areas of Kohat with artillery and helicopter gunships, killing the brother of local taliban commander Asif.

August 31, Khyber: The political administration issued an ultimatum to Mangal Bagh to vacate his new bases in Landi Kotal. As the Khyber Rifles and Khassadars launched a joint operation,

Bagh and hundreds of his supporters left the area for Tirah Valley. Security forces fired mortar shells on the residence where he was staying. In separate clashes, security forces killed an Lashkar-i-Islam fighter near Jamrud and suffered one casualty. Ten armed LI militants were arrested in Jamrud when they tried to flee to Bara. Authorities sealed a mosque and seized an illegal FM radio transmitter. (Note: The Khyber Political Agent said the militants have two transmitters and the one turned in was broken. End Note.)

Grassroots Efforts to Halt Talibanization

¶11. (SBU) The following events are examples of activities taken by local communities to halt the spread of talibanization:

August 16, Lower Dir: The local taliban agreed to leave the Maidan area after two rounds of talks with a local jirga. The local taliban asked for safe exit and that local checkpoints be abolished, both of which the jirga agreed to.

August 16, Bajaur: Jamaat e-Islami set up some relief camps in Mohmand Agency and Lower Dir for those displaced from Bajaur. Hundreds of families were reported to be moving into Kunar Province in Afghanistan, though many more flooded into neighboring districts in Pakistan.

August 16, Mardan: A Grand Jirga agreed to burn down the houses of those who support or shelter the local taliban.

August 17, Bajaur: Groups of tribesmen were reportedly patrolling Khar to check the movements of militants.

August 17, Kurram: The six major Shi'a tribes announced full support of the government in its efforts to push the militants out of the area and decided to raise a lashkar to fight the militants.

August 17, Lower Dir: Local taliban fighters, including foreign fighters, were reported to leave Lower Dir following talks with a local jirga.

August 18, Malakand: A local jirga in Tota Kan extended full cooperation to the Malakand Levies to purge the area of militants and especially non-locals.

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August 18, Buner: A jirga formed a committee for the maintenance of peace in the area, vowing to take action against those who killed innocent people.

August 19, Kurram: An 18-member peace jirga from Hangu and Orakzai arrived in Sadda to hold talks with the warring factions.

August 20, Bajaur: The tribes in Salarzai formed a Lashkar led by Mufti Fazal Hanif and Haji Rahat Yousaf, which the political administration agreed to support with weapons.

August 20, Mardan: A grand jirga established a lashkar to maintain the peace in the district. They also said they would oppose any military operation within the district. They asked the police to consult them before launching any operation of their own.

August 20, Khyber: When a vehicle carrying local militants and associates from Darra Adam Khel refused to stop for locals in Bara, the two sides exchanged fire. Four militants, allegedly associated with Tehrik-i-Taliban (TTP), were killed. In another area, locals surrounded four local taliban on patrol and forced them to surrender.

August 21, Kurram: The jirga from Hangu and Orakzai obtained a pledge of cooperation from the Turi tribe but not from the Bangash. The Turi tribal elders agreed to hand over their

hideouts to the security forces if a larger operation began.

August 24, Bajaur: Tribesman took to the street to protest the killing of civilians, blocking the Bajaur-Peshawar highway.

August 25, Bajaur: Tribal elders appealed to the local taliban not to resume attacks against security forces and government installations.

August 26, Bajaur: The tribesmen of Salarzai raised their first ever anti-taliban lashkar of 200-300 men, following the assassinations of their elders the day before. The lashkar killed a militant who had entered the agency from Mansehra.

August 26, Swabi: The political parties in the district agreed to convene a grand peace jirga to restore peace in the district.

August 27, Kurram: Locals called for government intervention in the ongoing inter-tribal violence.

August 28, Bajaur: The tribal lashkar killed a suicide bomber and detained two others who were allegedly about to attack a jirga in Salarzai. The lashkar cleared several girls' schools that the militants were using as training centers and Shari'a courts and set up checkpoints around the area.

August 28, Bajaur: A jirga in Khar raised a lashkar to repel the militants.

August 28, Lower Dir: A 70-member peace jirga in Timergara asked the local taliban to leave their area. The local taliban representatives apparently asked for time to consult their central leadership.

August 28, Badhabar: The locals formed committees comprising 200 members to patrol the area at night with the police.

August 29, Bajaur: The Salarzai lashkar prepared positions for a confrontation with the taliban faction headed by Naimatullah.

August 29, Lower Dir: The local taliban chief Hafeezullah agreed to pull his men out of Lower Dir, following the peace jirga, on condition that all cases registered against them be withdrawn, their local hosts be protected, and the local taliban be given safe passage. The district agreed to the second two conditions and referred the first to the provincial government.

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August 29, Nowshera: Elders convened a jirga in which they decided to form peace committees to root out militancy in the district initially by mounting joint patrols with the police.

August 29: Upper Dir: After hundreds of armed militants entered the area to set up camps, a tribal jirga raised a lashkar to repel them and deter a military operation. In talks with the local taliban, the jirga told the militants to leave or face action.

August 29, Mattani: Locals are banding together with the police to repel the militants by launching armed patrols.

August 30, Bajaur: The Salarzai lashkar issued shoot on sight orders if a militant was seen in the area and warned local people not to provide shelter to foreign militants, otherwise their houses would be torched and they would be fined over \$10,000.

August 31, Bajaur: After warning militants to leave the area, the Salarzai lashkar launched a campaign, destroying militant command centers and 14 houses, including the house of a local taliban commander. Militants freed six soldiers they had earlier kidnapped.

August 31: FR Kohat: Gunmen shot dead a local militant commander in Darra Adam Khel.

